

Application No. 09/284,787
Reply to Office Action of Jan. 3, 2007

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claims:

- 1-21. (Canceled)
22. (Previously Presented) The monoclonal antibody produced by hybridoma R 3A12 deposited at the "Deutsche Sammlung für Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen" under Accession No. DSM ACC2286 (08.10.1996).
23. (Previously Presented) A method for the production of a monoclonal antibody with binding specificity for the epitope YPYDVDPDYA (SEQ ID NO: 1) comprising:
- (a) providing a haemagglutinin peptide consisting of 13 or 14 amino acids, wherein a nine amino acid sequence of said epitope consists of the amino acid sequence YPYDVDPDYA (SEQ ID NO: 1);
 - (b) immunizing a small mammal with said peptide,
 - (c) isolating B lymphocytes from the spleen of said mammal and fusing said lymphocytes with mouse myeloma cells to form clones,
 - (d) selecting clones formed in step (c) that produce an antibody which binds to the haemagglutinin peptide and to a haemagglutinin fusion protein, and
 - (e) selecting a clone from those selected in step (d) that produces an antibody with a binding affinity of $>10^8 \text{M}^{-1}$ for the sequence YPYDVDPDYA (SEQ ID NO: 1) and establishing said clone as a hybrid cell line.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said haemagglutinin peptide is selected from the group consisting of acetyl-YPYDVDPDYAGSGSK (ϵ -biotinoyl) amide (a derivative of SEQ ID NO: 2) and biotinoyl- ϵ -Aca-SGSGYPYDVDPDYA amide (a derivative of SEQ ID NO: 3).
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said haemagglutinin fusion protein is haemagglutinin-tagged glutathione-S-transferase.

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26. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody having a binding affinity of $>3 \times 10^8 \text{M}^{-1}$ for an epitope consisting of acetyl-YPYDVDPDYAGSGSK (ϵ -biotinoyl) amide or biotinoyl- ϵ -Aca-SGSGYPYDVDPDYA amide, as determined using a surface plasmon resonance system.

27. (Previously Presented) The monoclonal antibody of claim 26, wherein the antibody has a binding affinity of about 10^9 to about 10^{10}M^{-1} .